

Remarks

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed August 31, 2005, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and that the case pass to issue in light of the amendments above and the remarks below. By this paper, independent claim 7 has been amended and claims 1-6 and 18-20 have been canceled, such that claim 7-17 are pending, with claims 15-17 being withdrawn for being directed to non-elected subject matter.

The Examiner has set forth the following rejections: the disclosure is objected to for including a informality; claims 7-9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 4,929,017 to Lilienthal (hereinafter the Lilienthal patent); and claims 7-9, 11, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 6,213,538 to Scheidmantel (hereinafter the Scheidmantel).

The Examiner has noted that claims 10 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the associated base claim and any intervening claims.

Objection to Specification

The Applicants submit that the amendment to the specification obviate this objection.

Rejection of Claims 7-9 and 12 Under 102(b) Over the Lilienthal Patent

Independent claim 7 has been amended to include limitations directed towards a foam layer comprising a poured foam material directly bonded to the second substrate and not the first substrate. The Lilienthal patent discloses that the foam is injected into the armrest

cavity after the insert has been inserted thereto, such that the foam must necessarily bond to both the armrest and the insert.

As such, the Lilienthal patent cannot teach that the foam layer is bonded to the second substrate and not the first substrate, as recited in independent claim 7. Consequently, independent claim 7, and dependent claims 8-14, which depend therefrom include all of the limitations thereof, are patentable and nonobvious over the cited reference.

Rejection of Claims 7-9, 11, and 14
Under 102(b) Over the Scheidmantel Patent

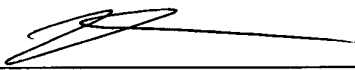
Independent claim 7 has been amended to include limitations directed towards a foam layer comprising a poured foam material directly bonded to the second substrate. The Scheidmantel patent discloses the use of a dye cut foam which is attached to an insert via an adhesive layer. The dye cut foam is not a poured foam and the adhesive layer prevents directly bonding the foam to the insert.

As such, the Scheidmantel patent fails to disclose that the foam layer comprises a poured foam material directly bonded to the second substrate, as recited in independent claim 7. Consequently, independent claim 7 and dependent claims 8-14, which depend therefrom and include all of the limitations thereof, are patentable and nonobvious over the cited reference.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that each rejection has been fully replied to and traversed and that the case is in condition to pass to issue. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issue and is invited to contact the undersigned if it would further prosecution of this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy S. Reed et al.

By 
John R. Buser
Reg. No. 51,517
Attorney/Agent for Applicant

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BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075-1238
Phone: 248-358-4400
Fax: 248-358-3351